

Greetings and Happy 2026!

I have BIG news. I will be living for 1-2 years in Portugal beginning the end of March. I've spent ten weeks there in the last three years and became enamored with the country. It's a safe, inexpensive place with excellent health care, incredible food, friendly people plus my visa allows me into all the EU countries. I've explored Portugal's three regions: Algarve (southern Atlantic coast); Central including Lisbon, Évora, Sintra, Peniche and Coimbra: and the Northern Atlantic especially Porto, Guimarães and Aveiro. I chose the latter as a place to live for its canals, size, charm and walkability. It was the coolest place in both temperature and ambiance. Only 6 miles to beaches so there's an ocean breeze.

Why Portugal?

#1 - Portuguese, learned 35 years ago in Brazil, is rusty. But in September, I did manage to lease an apartment, open a bank account and use my limited skills to self check-out groceries, navigate the buses and subway, and order food in restaurants. However, fluency is my goal.



#2 - Visit European countries I haven't yet been to. It's now possible, after 14 years of caring for parents and then husband Cliff, to fulfill the dream I had at age 23 when I left to work in Switzerland and France. After exploring Europe, I may volunteer teach in Costa Rica for room and board while taking short trips around Central and South America; after that, on to Asia - especially South Korea. Watching K-Drama during Covid taught me a few expressions. I'm enamored with the culture and cuisine and can't wait

to try all the delicious food featured on the shows. Maybe even learn the Hangul language!

Since Cliff's passing in 2022, I've been on the road about a quarter of each year: Australia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Ireland, Portugal, France, Spain, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru. Added to my earlier travels, I have so far been to 37 countries and France ten times. Since the human body tends to decline in one's 80s (I'm now 75), I need to speed things up if I want to see as many of the 90 countries on my bucket list as possible.



The best way to reach me will be to download [Facebook Messenger](#) (a separate app from Facebook) or [WhatsApp](#) (used mostly by international friends) for free calls or video chats. Please remember that Portugal is 7-8 hours ahead. My phone will allow me to have both my US number and also one in Portugal, so I may have to switch back and forth which could complicate connections. Mail to and from Portugal is slow, but my physical address will be:

Rua Dona Conceição Maria dos Anjos, n^o 4, 2^o Andar, Esq. Trás
3800-016 Aveiro
Portugal



Ate logo! Judy
judithhiatt@icloud.com